

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Nancy Brown and I am a resident of West Haven, CT. I am a member of the Unitarian Society of New Haven, and I write on behalf of the Unitarian Society's Immigration and Refugee Task Force.

We write in support of HB 6616, An Act Concerning Expansion of Husky Health Benefits to Those Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.

Our Immigration and Refugee Task Force has been an ally and supporter of immigrant-led organizations in the greater New Haven area and statewide for over a decade. Our members include immigrants, and we interact directly with immigrants as ESOL tutors, interpreters, and volunteers with immigrant-advocate organizations. We see with our own eyes the day-to-day challenges that immigrants face as they seek to learn the culture and language of the U.S., to get the health care their families need, to raise and educate their children, and to make ends meet. When we ask, "What are your goals? Why do you want to learn English?" the responses are most often "So I can get a better job, talk to the doctor, talk to my child's teacher."

Lack of adequate health care should not be a barrier as these families try to make their way in our state. We think health care should be available to all people in Connecticut, not just those whom the legislature deems deserving.

We vigorously support HB 6616 and we hope you will too. It's the fiscally responsible and humane and thing to do.

Thank you for your time,

Nancy Brown

361 Berwick Lane

West Haven, CT 06516

203 640 2268

On behalf of the Immigration & Refugee Task Force, Unitarian Society of New Haven

Resident of West Haven, CT